

# Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Packet

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Arkansas State University (ASU) in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Enclosed are the forms and instructions necessary to initiate the application process for our program. Please review the entire packet and read the instructions carefully before completing the forms.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at ASU is an associate-level program that begins in the first summer term each year, is 1 year in length and is designed to prepare a generalist physical therapist assistant and to foster lifelong learning and development. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree is awarded upon successful completion of the program. In addition to classroom and laboratory experiences, each student engages in 16 weeks of full-time clinical education internships.

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a competitive process. Up to twenty-four (24) students are admitted each year. In order to produce graduates who will be competent to serve in the many roles required of a physical therapist assistant, the faculty values a mature applicant, one who has demonstrated his/her academic and cognitive abilities as well as his/her personal and professional potential. Applicants to the program should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Be an ASU System student – for admissions information, contact the Admissions Office, PO Box 1630, State University, AR 72467. Phone: 800-382-3030 Internet: <http://admissions.astate.edu>.
- Be aware of the University General Requirements for Associate Degrees found in the ASU Undergraduate Bulletin - <http://registrar.astate.edu/bulletin.htm>
- Be aware of the Abilities and Skills of the Physical Therapist Assistant (page 2 of this packet)
- Complete the required prerequisite coursework (see page 5 of this packet) prior to admission

**The application deadline for any given year is April 1. All application materials must be received on or before April 1 of each year. Any application materials received after this date will be classified as late and may not be processed for the class beginning in that year. In addition, the Admissions Committee must be able to verify that the applicant has made application to ASU. Applicants for whom the Admissions Office has not received a completed application packet by April 1 will not be considered to have completed the application process. Therefore, those applications may not be processed for that year. Out-of-state applicants should submit their ASU applications early enough to avoid this problem.**

Pre-application advising is available for all students interested in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Please contact the Programs in Physical Therapy office to speak with a faculty advisor.

## Contact information:

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
College of Nursing and Health Professions  
Arkansas State University  
PO Box 910  
State University, AR 72467  
Phone: 870-972-3591  
Fax: 870-972-3652  
Internet: [www.pt.astate.edu](http://www.pt.astate.edu)**

# **ABILITIES AND SKILLS OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

The ASU Physical Therapist Assistant Program affirms that all students enrolled in a physical therapist assistant program must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

A student desiring to become a physical therapist assistant (candidate) must have the abilities and skills necessary for use of the physical therapy process. These skills and abilities include observation, communication, motor ability, conceptualization, integration and quantification, and behavioral/social acceptability. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonable independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable because a candidate's judgment must not be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

## Observation:

The candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and tactile sensation. It is enhanced by the functional sense of smell.

## Communication:

The candidate must be able to speak, hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

## Motor:

Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers. A candidate must have sufficient motor skill to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to the treatment of patients receiving physical therapy. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Examples of required fine motor skills would include assessment of vital signs, application of dressings, debridement of wounds, tissue palpation and manual testing. Examples of required gross motor skills would include, but not be limited to, positioning clients in bed, gait training, transfer training, balance training, therapeutic exercise, and maneuvering in confined spaces. In addition, the candidate should be able to lift and carry a minimum of 35% of his or her own body weight. Also the candidate should be able to sit, bend, reach and/or walk and stand for most of the day.

## Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physical therapist assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

## Behavioral and Social Attributes:

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patient, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and coworkers.

Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for physical therapy.

# Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Checklist

The Admissions Committee of the ASU Programs in Physical Therapy suggests that students interested in making application to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program follow the checklist below to help ensure that all necessary application steps are completed in an appropriate and timely manner. **The deadline for all materials to be received is April 1 of any given year.**

**Check those items submitted to the Admissions Office, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 1630, State University, AR 72467.**

- ❑ **ASU Application for Undergraduate Admission and associated documents and fees.** The undergraduate application should be completed first. A student cannot be fully admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program until he/she has been admitted to the university. Undergraduate application packets can be requested by mail at the above address, requested by phone at 1-800-382-3030 (toll-free) or downloaded from the Admissions Office's web site at <http://www.astate.edu/admissions.htm>.

**Check those items submitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:**

- ❑ **Physical Therapist Assistant Application for Admission (page 4 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Completed Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet (page 5 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Transcript from each college/university attended (copies are acceptable)**
- ❑ **Life Experiences Profile (page 7 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Completed Demographics Card (page 8 of this packet)**

The items required by the Physical Therapist Assistant Program should all be mailed in one envelope to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 910, State University, AR 72467. Submitted materials become the property of the Programs in Physical Therapy. We recommend that applicants make copies of all submitted materials for their personal records.

## **Admissions Process**

Applicants will be scored on the following items:

- Academic/Cognitive Measures (70% total)
  - Cumulative GPA (10%)
  - Pre-requisite Coursework GPA (60%)
- Non-Cognitive Measures (30% total)
  - Life Experiences Profile (15%)
  - Interview (15%)

The top 32 applicants will be selected for an interview using the criteria above. The final class of students (target class size is 24) will be chosen following the interview. The remaining interview students will be placed on the alternate list.



**Arkansas State University**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**  
**Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet**

In the table below, please indicate the courses that you have taken that meet the prerequisite coursework requirements for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. See page 6 of this packet for descriptions of preferred ASU System courses. These descriptions are used by the Admissions Committee to determine if an alternate course from another institution meets the requirements of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Applicants who are uncertain if a course that they have taken meets one of our prerequisites should consult a faculty advisor by contacting the Programs in Physical Therapy office at 870-972-3591. Write IP (in progress) for prerequisite courses in which you are currently enrolled. Students admitted to the PTA Program will be required to submit proof of successful completion of all prerequisite coursework prior to being allowed to begin PTA coursework. Failure to successfully complete the prerequisites will result in the student being denied a spot in the PTA Program.

<b>Prerequisite Course</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Semester/Year course taken</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
MATH 1023 College Algebra					
ENG 1003 Composition I					
ENG 1013 Composition II					
PHYS 2133 Survey of Physics or PYS 2054 General Physics I					
PSY 2013 Intro Psychology or ANTH 2233 Intro to Anthropology or SOC 2213 Intro to Sociology					
BIO 2201, 2203 (ZOO 2001/2003) Human A&P I w/lab					
BIO 2221, 2223 (ZOO 2013/2011) Human A&P II w/lab or HP 3003 General Gross Anatomy					
POSC 2103 American Govt. or HIST 2763 OR HIST 2773 U.S. History					
CS 1043 Introduction to Computers or MIS 1503 Microcomputer Applications or Making Connections					
HP 2013 Medical Terminology					
PT 2003 Introduction to Physical Therapy					

**Arkansas State University**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**  
**Description of Prerequisite Courses**

Prerequisite coursework completed by an applicant should include the following content. The ASU courses that meet the prerequisite requirements are listed below.

- **Human Anatomy & Physiology with lab (7-8 credits)**
  - **BIO 2203 Human Anatomy and Physiology I.** Introduction to the biology of atoms, molecules; organelles and cellular functions; tissues; functional anatomy of integumentary, skeletal, muscular and central nervous systems; interaction with external environment. (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
  - **BIO 2201 Laboratory for Human Anatomy and Physiology I.** The behavior of matter with respect to life processes; cells, tissues; functional anatomy of integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous systems; cat anatomy; nerve and muscle preparations and recordings. (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
  - **BIO 2223 Human Anatomy and Physiology II.** Major sense organs; autonomic nervous system and internal environment; neuro-endocrine control mechanisms; cardiorespiratory functions; oxygen/carbon dioxide transport; liver functions; digestive, renal and reproductive processes.
  - **BIO 2221 Laboratory for Human Anatomy and Physiology II.** Functional anatomy of the major sense organs, digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular systems; urogenital anatomy, renal function, gamete production, embryogenesis; experiment with autonomic control mechanisms.
  - **HP 3003 General Gross Anatomy** The regional topographic study of human gross anatomy using lecture, laboratory, discussion, and prosected cadavers. Emphasis is placed on surface anatomy, musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems. Clinical correlations are highlighted. Lecture 2 hours per week. Laboratory 2 hours per week. (May be substituted for ZOOL 2013/2011)
- **PHYS 2133 Survey of Physics for the Health Professions** A survey for introductory mechanics, waves, electricity, magnetism, optics and modern physics with applications for students of the health professions.
- **PHYS 2054 General Physics I** The essential of mechanics, heat, material and simple harmonic motion in a unified lecture/laboratory format utilizing multimedia computers at each student station. Six hours per week.
- **MATH 1023 College Algebra** Equations and inequalities, functions and graphs, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices, and miscellaneous topics. (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
- **ENG 1003 Composition I** Study and practice of fundamentals of written communication including principles of grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, and careful analytical reading. (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
- **ENG 1013 Composition II** Continues the practice of ENG 1003, to develop further the skills learned in that course. Based on reading and discussion of various types of writing, the students' essays will provide practice in different kinds of rhetorical development including research and documentation. (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
- **One of the following courses:**
  - **PSY 2013 Introduction to Psychology** Study of the important scientific principles of individual human behavior from biological, cognitive, social, and behavioral perspectives.
  - **SOC 2213 Principles of Sociology** Human society and social behavior.
  - **ANTH 2233 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology** Introduction to the concept of culture.
- **One of the following courses:** (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
  - **HIST 2763 The United States To 1876** Social, economic, and political developments from Columbus to the end of Reconstruction.
  - **HIST 2773 The United States Since 1876** Social, economic, and political developments from Reconstruction to the present.
  - **POSC 2103 Introduction to United States Government** The constitution, government, and politics of the United States.
- **One of the following courses:** (GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)
  - **CS 1043 Introduction to Computers** Applications of computers for general university course work. Elementary operating system usage, creation of data files, spreadsheets for mathematical and scientific data, Internet usage.
  - **MIS 1503 Microcomputer Applications** Study of the role of the microcomputer or PC as a tool used for business. The applications covered will include: Windows operating system, Internet access, E-mail operations, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations.
  - **Making Connections** Open to incoming Freshmen only, this course will provide both an introduction to the nature of university education and a general orientation to the functions and resources of the University as a whole. This section of Making Connections is a special health professions section and will include a focus on understanding and appreciating various health science majors.
- **HP 2013 Medical Terminology** Basic language related to medical science and the health professions: word analysis, construction, spelling, and definitions. **Also available as a web course.**
- **PT 2003 Introduction to Physical Therapy** Introduces students to the multifaceted role of physical therapy personnel. Topics include the evolution of medicine and physical therapy, the health care system in the USA, objectives and applications of physical therapy, methodologies used in physical therapy education, the concept of the health care team, and ethics. Competency in medical terminology is evaluated. **Also available as a web course.**

**Arkansas State University**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**  
**Life Experiences Profile**

Applicants to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program should use narrative-type or short essay information to address the following ten characteristics based on life experiences. Explain how your life and educational background have prepared you in each of these areas. Your responses will be scored based on grammar, content, and evidence of the characteristics addressed. Simply use each of the numbered questions as a heading. The profile should be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman text, double-spaced and a maximum of 5 pages.

1. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you are committed to learning.
2. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you interact well with others.
3. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you are an effective communicator.
4. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you can effectively use constructive feedback.
5. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you are an effective problem-solver.
6. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you can conduct yourself professionally.
7. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you are accountable for your actions.
8. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you can think critically (i.e., critically evaluate an idea, situation, etc).
9. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you are effective at managing time.
10. Give specific examples that demonstrate how you can handle stress.

**Your name should not appear on the front of this document. Please write your name on the back side of the last page of the life experiences profile.**

